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Luby's

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As of March 2011, **Luby's, Inc.** (formerly Luby's Cafeterias, Inc. and NYSE: LUB) operates restaurants under the brands Luby's, Fuddruckers, Koo Koo Roo , and Cheeseburger in Paradise. It was founded in 1947 in San Antonio, Texas, United States by Robert Luby (1910-1998).

Its 95 Luby's cafeteria-style restaurants are located in Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, the Rio Grande Valley, and other cities throughout Texas; with one in Arkansas and two in Oklahoma. Its headquarters is in the Near Northwest district of Houston, Texas.

Its Fuddruckers restaurants include 56 company-operated locations and 129 franchises across the United States with one location in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, five in Puerto Rico, and one each in Villahermosa, Tabasco, and Santo Domingo. Its single Koo Koo Roo Chicken Bistro location serves chicken sandwiches, tossed salads, vegetables, and soups in Santa Monica, California. Luby's Culinary Services provides contract food service management to 18 sites consisting of healthcare, higher education, and corporate dining locations, such as Texas Children's Hospital, Lone Star College, and Baylor College of Medicine.[1][2][3]

Luby's, Inc.

Type	Public
Traded as	NYSE: LUB
Industry	Casual dining restaurant
Founded	1947 in San Antonio, Texas, USA
Headquarters	Houston, Texas, USA
Key people	Christopher J. Pappas, President and CEO; K. Scott Gray, Sr. VP and CFO; Peter Tropoli, COO; B. Todd Coutee, Sr. VP of Operations
Products	Homestyle food, cafeteria, American
Revenue	▲$324.64 million USD (2006)
Net income	▲$19.56 million USD (2006)
Employees	8,210 (2006)
Subsidiaries	Fuddruckers Koo Koo Roo Cheeseburger in Paradise
Website	www.lubys.com

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History [edit]

Luby's headquarters in Near Northwest, Texas, near Houston, 2011.

Bob Luby was one year old when his father, Harry, opened his first cafeteria called the New England Dairy Lunch. Bob opened his first Luby's Cafeteria in 1947, focusing on fresh food and customer service. Luby's soon expanded outside of San Antonio, Texas to Tyler, Harlingen, El Paso, and Beaumont.

In 1959, the original partners formed Cafeterias, Inc. Luby's continued to grow, entering other Texas cities and locations in contiguous states. Luby's entered Houston for the first time when it opened Romana Cafeteria in 1965. Locations opened in New Mexico in 1966 and in Oklahoma in 1980.

In 1973, Cafeterias, Inc. became a publicly traded company. To honor Bob Luby, Cafeterias, Inc., was renamed Luby's Cafeterias, Inc., in 1981. One year later, Luby's shares were listed on the New York Stock Exchange. By 1987 Luby's had reached 100 locations.

In 2001, Chris and Harris Pappas of Houston's Pappas Restaurants (owners of Pappasito's Cantina, Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen, etc.) joined the Luby's management team. Three years later, Luby's moved its corporate headquarters from San Antonio to Houston.[4] The addition of the Pappas management team saw several Luby's restaurants begin to transition from traditional cafeteria-style establishments to hybrid cafeteria/fine dining establishments, replacing drink cart attendants with traditional waitstaff and extensively remodeling selected locations.[5]

Luby's celebrated its 60th anniversary in December 2006 with publishing "Luby's Recipes & Memories: A Collection of our Favorite Dishes and Heartwarming Stories," a cookbook featuring its most requested recipes, helpful hints and tips and photography of real guests and their personal memories and stories throughout the book.[6] The cookbook went on to win several awards, including the "USA Gourmand Award" for best cookbook photography and the "Independent Publisher Award" bronze winner for cookbooks. In 2008, Luby's published a special edition of the cookbook that included 12 additional recipes. The 60th anniversary cookbooks were a response to the popularity of the original Luby's cookbook, published in 1997 in honor of the Company's 50th anniversary.[7]

In 2009, due to the economic recession, Luby's closed 25 stores and laid off staff as a cost-cutting measure.[8]

In 2010 Luby's Culinary Services introduced "What's Brewing?", a coffeehouse concept store in Downtown Houston.[9][10]

The same year, on June 18, Luby's announced it was buying Fuddruckers and Koo Koo Roo for $61 million after parent company Magic Brands LLC went bankrupt.[11] The acquisition was final later in the summer.

On June 13, 2011, to celebrate the one-year anniversary of its milestone Fuddruckers acquisition, Luby's launched its first, new company-owned Fuddruckers location. Situated in the heart of downtown Houston's seven-mile (11 km) tunnel system, the 3,330-square-foot (309 m^2) concept store showcases a more compact footprint.

In 2013, Luby's acquired Cheeseburger in Paradise.

Headquarters [edit]

Luby's has its headquarters in Suite 600 of the 13111 Northwest Freeway building in the Near Northwest district and in Houston, Texas.[12][13]

In July 2004, Luby's announced that it would move its headquarters from San Antonio to Houston, where Pappas Restaurants has its headquarters. At that time Luby's did not yet state where it would be moving to; the company stated that it would most likely move to a suburb in Greater Houston. 80 jobs were transferred to Houston.[14] After the Pappas takeover and before the move, several members of the Luby's management had traveled between Houston and San Antonio.[15]

Food [edit]

Luby's is a cafeteria restaurant, specializing in made-from-scratch comfort food and offering a variety of fresh salads, entrees, sides, vegetables, breads, and desserts to choose from to "build" one's perfect meal along the 30-foot (9.1 m) line. Luby's Fried Fish, often referred to as the "square fish" since it is a block of cod, and homemade Macaroni and Cheese, made from real American cheese, are the two most popular items. During Thanksgiving and throughout the holiday season, Luby's offers several complete meal packages as well as whole meats and sides for guests to purchase for their celebrations.

Lu Ann Platter [edit]

The "Lu Ann Platter", a popular combination platter served at Luby's, is a half portion entree with vegetables. This plate was the inspiration for the character name Luanne Platter from the animated Texas comedy/drama, *King of the Hill*. The cafeteria itself is characterized as "Luly's" on the show. In a 2010 promotion, Luby's had a "Luann" model visit stores.

Luby's massacre [edit]

Main article: Luby's massacre

A deadly shootout occurred at a Luby's restaurant at 1705 East Central Texas Expressway in Killeen, Texas, on October 16, 1991, when George Hennard gunned down 24 people.[16] This location reopened after cleanup and redesign of the front wall; it closed permanently on September 9, 2000.[17] A Chinese-American buffet restaurant now occupies the former location.[18]

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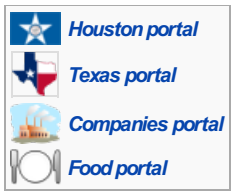
External links [edit]

- Luby's website
- Luby's Culinary Services website
- Pappas Restaurants website
- Luby's reviews
- Fuddruckers Website
- Koo Koo Roo Website



Categories: Companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange | Restaurants established in 1947 | Regional restaurant chains in the United States | Companies based in Houston, Texas | Restaurants in Texas | Restaurants in San Antonio, Texas | Restaurants in Houston, Texas | Cafeteria-style restaurants | 1947 establishments in Texas

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